

# Xenogears character profiles

\* Character profiles contain spoilers.



## Individual Attributes:

Gender: female  
Born: 9981, age 18  
Height: 164cm (5'6")  
Weight: 46kg (101 lbs)

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## Elhaym Van Houten (a.k.a. Elly, the Antitype, 'Mother Sophia')

Elhaym, born in the First Class citizen level, was raised in a normal family until she entered the Jugend academy at the age of 13 - naturally receiving her education as a Solaris citizen. From the time when she was a toddler, she had a very impressionable personality, and after the accident from adverse effects when she was 17 years old, this only grew stronger. Also, after this incident, she was expelled from entering the Elements group. After her graduation from Jugend, she accepted a post in Gebler as a third weapons division officer. She became second lieutenant. She was sent to the Ignas Area to steal the new prototype Gear from Kislev.

### \* Complex

While both parents are upper class type Solarians, Elly closely resembles a surface dweller. Noticing from a very young age that she was different, she began to have doubts about her birth. This may have been due to the influence of the presence at that time of her nanny. After the nanny - a surface dweller in the Third Class citizen level - lost her own child, Elly's father sheltered her. However, things like her own looks' similarity, combined with the fact that her father didn't drive out the nanny, caused Elly to begin to wonder if she might not be her real mother. Elly is without a doubt the true daughter of her father Erich and her mother Medena. The difference in her looks is attributed to her being the reincarnated -Antitype- of the Contact. Like Fei, she has memories remaining from being reincarnated, but she has hardly realized it yet. Elly has a strong sense of self sacrifice, and as an existence born from Original Elhaym, she has inherited this naturally. (This is straight from *Perfect Works*, so it confirms that Elly is Medena's daughter.)

### \* The -Drive- accident

When Elly was 17 years old, there was an incident when she heavily wounded her classmates (2 fatally, 3 were revived). The matter of her treatment by the military [Case 102] was the result of an overdose of -Drive-, and the disaster resulted when she lost control. However, this was the power of Elly as the Antitype and it was unleashed temporarily as a result of the drugs. Inside Jugend, there are those who show adverse effects from the drug. Elly had a normal dose of -Drive- and rejected it. This time it was a strong reaction as well resulting in her strength going out of control.

### \* Enneagram Type

According to Enneagram personality analysis, Elly is classified as a type 2 (affectionate / sociable / self-sacrificial / grandiose). People of this type desire to feel loved, to connect with others in a heartfelt way, and to be a source of benevolence and love in the world. Elly is a perfect example of type 2, the archetypal "mother" type. In fact, 2s tend to believe that they will be loved only if they are completely available to attend to the needs of others and may fear that others will reject them if they have needs or emotional hurts of their own.

Because of Elly's basic interest of finding romantic union with the man she loves (the Contact), and focusing intensely on the other's needs, hopes, and interests, she is further classified as a Sexual variant type 2. The sexual instinct, in general, is the love of other and giving. Since type 2 is already a loving and giving character, the sexual 2 is almost like a double 2 in their energy. Sexual 2s therefore tend to take the active role as pursuer and the one who shoulders difficulty effectively. Can appear Bish with erotic appeal and may go militant and angrily blame. Behind these flare-ups a melancholy desire for total enmeshed connectedness to another. Can often be an irresistible woman who can inspire great passion, like Helen of Troy in Greek literature - woman for whom men went to war and lost their lives. 500 years ago, Sophia similarly inspired great passion in her followers.

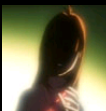
### The Antitype - rebirth and death with the Contact

Elly, starting with the Original Elhaym, is usually born as Elhaym's reincarnation in the same era as the Contact. As such, Elhaym is the opposing existence to the Contact = the Antitype. To trace it to its source, she is the result of the Wave Existence going along Abel's image, in particular adding in the Mother's will. Usually, the Contact is male (paternal) and therefore its opposite, the Mother, (maternal) must be female. Elhaym has always been reincarnated along with the Contact, and in order to protect him she dies. Originally, the relationship between them in the beginning was that of mother and child, from then on they met as lovers, taking on that relationship. Whatever the form of death for Elhaym, it causes great agony to the Contact. A major factor in Fei's natural tendency to torture himself, is the result of Elhaym's repeated dying in order to protect him, resulting in added burden over time of "it's my fault" as his most precious woman is killed. Elly is self sacrificing, and that combined with her nature as a woman results in the growth of her aspect as the Mother, which is directly from Original Elhaym.

(As with most of the info in the XG character profiles, the above is from *Xenogears: Perfect Works* using UltimateGraphics' awkward literal translation. There is some interesting things brought up here, such as "usually, the Contact is male" - suggesting people might reincarnate in different forms, such as the opposite sex, in the Xenoverse. However, Takahashi has a way of suggesting something at one point, such as "Elhaym is usually born in the same era as the Contact", meaning it doesn't necessarily always happen - only to establish later that "Elhaym has always been reincarnated along with the Contact, and in order to protect him she dies." This is slightly annoying, and happens a lot. Thus, as interesting as the implication is that the Contact can be born female, it might mean something, or it might just as easily mean nothing, and that it never happened.)

### Original Elhaym

Original Elhaym meets the Contact Abel, and from that point on, they are together. Abel rebels against Cain who seeks to take control of the thoughts and actions of the people. Cain plans to kill Abel who has become an interference. In order to protect Abel, Elhaym



## RELATED CHARACTERS



### Nephilim (Xenosaga)

Nephilim and Elly are very similar characters, although Nephilim is only a roaming consciousness in Xenosaga, they both share the same Ennea-type (including instinctual variant), both have a relationship with their respective Abel character, and Nephilim has the same seiyuu (japanese voice actor) as Elly - Touma Yumi. It is thought that if two characters share the same seiyuu then they might be spiritually related. Nephilim is considered a re-imagining of Elly's origin in the Xenoverse.

## MIRRORED CHARACTERS



### Mary Magdalene (Xenosaga)

While there is no direct relation between the two characters, they both play a key role in the 'Xenoverse', spanning thousands of years. Both have similar Ennea-type personality (friendly, helpful and self-sacrificing), and both share quite a bit of resemblance in appearance as well.



### Andrew Cherenkov (Xenosaga)

Andrew and Elly are mirrored with similar flashbacks early in their respective story arcs, showing mental instability and both characters to have fatally killed and injured people in the process. Cinematography is also similar, placing both characters under a spotlight, etc. Both are soldiers, perhaps unlikely soldiers.



### Febronia (Xenosaga)

Feb and Elly (Sophia) are mirrored as women who sacrificed their lives so that others could live in their respective story arcs, leaving the men they left behind with grief and hatred towards those that caused it.



### chaos (Xenosaga)

While there is no direct relation between the two characters, they both play a key role in the 'Xenoverse', and both characters have a physical body that is plot relevant and frequently referred to as the body of God.

persuades Cain (even in regards to Cain, Elhaym is the 'Mother' existence) and Cain sets in motion a plan to counteract this. At this time, Elhaym loses her life shielding Abel.

(More awkwardness from *Perfect Works*. It names this Elly "Original Elhaym", but we all know from the game that the Original died giving birth to this replica who is a kid when they meet, something you can tell from how she is voiced in the Japanese version.)

#### Elhaym (Zeboim)

She was a nurse at the college hospital in the capital Zeboim (Federal Medical Bureau). She falls in love with Kim who is working as a doctor at the same hospital. Kim's research facility is surrounded by the military who wants to take over his constructed nanotechnology. In order to help Kim escape into the central isolated room, Elly brings the military invasion to a stop herself. She dies when the research center's hazard safety system is triggered, releasing high amounts of radiation.

#### Sophia

The first Mother of the Nisan Orthodox. Born as the third daughter of the Bishop of the Nisan teaching's Ashura Monastery. When a small child, she met Lacan while recovering from illness. From then on, she was engulfed as a candidate in the struggle for the selection of Mother, and went missing for a time. After she returned, she reorganized and re-named the Nisan Orthodox as Holy Mother, meeting Lacan once more after a period of 13 years.



Around the time she was 7 years old, she manifested a rare talent (Ether Ability) and was sent as adopted daughter to Cardinal Penuel as a future candidate for Holy Mother. (The selection of Mother by the head bishopric of the Church). At age 13 she was selected as a candidate for the position of Mother, changing her name from Elhaym to Sophia. However, this was in the midst of a battle between the factions for the selection of Mother and as it intensified, the Penuel Monastery was attacked, and from the Cardinal on down, more than half of Sophia's faction were killed. Sophia went to a place unknown. 7 years later, she returned to current day Nisan. Due to the schism, the Nisan teaching was on the wane, and with Sophia as Mother, she reorganized its teachings and re-named it as the Nisan Orthodox.

The fighting among the Church factions was a bloody battle for the choosing of the Mother based on heredity within the Church. The Penuel faction was not immune from this, and in the middle of the struggle, gradually Sophia began to feel more strongly; "If I weren't here", thus longing for her own death. At the time of the attack on the Monastery, when facing Krelian who had come to kill her, she merely said with a small smile; "...thank you." Having been charmed by her pure smile, Krelian took her away to protect her. Afterwards, for the 7 years until their return to Nisan, it is not certain what happened to the two of them.

Upon the outbreak of the Solaris War, refugees poured into Nisan. With Sophia at the head of the healing Corps, she became revered as "Holy Mother". After that, when Nisan entered battle, Sophia's will stood as a symbol for the surface dweller's army. Sophia and Lacan fell in love during the war. However, due to a secret plot by Shevat, the surface army was surrounded by the Solaris army, and Sophia used the aerial battleship Excalibur to mount an attack on the enemy flagship, Merkava. It was scattered in the upper stratosphere above present day Kislev. And so, it was her thought as the Nisan Mother to rescue the people from battle, and as a single woman she gave her last wish to her beloved...to Lacan; "Live!"

*"Elly is different from Fei, and more direct by comparison, which I wanted Tanaka-kun to reflect in his drawings.*

*The first notes on Elly said that she had to have long hair. Anything else was all right, and almost all drawings got the O.K. The concept of her clothes was something sleek, (like a race queen). The slit in the hip area wasn't there at first, but we wanted it (heh, heh). And the shoulders were on a draft that we liked - for a total costume that we liked the most. On the other hand, too complicated and the cosplay guys would have real problems! (Hah, hah) And the stockings couldn't get too colorful, (hah, hah). They were more of a undercoat (leopard type thing) and it came together. However, compared to most stockings, these might be really expensive (luxury item). And normally would have been like the clothes, white also."*

*- Tetsuya Takahashi*

#### Notes:

Elly was 'conceptualized' and named by Soraya Saga, but Tetsuya Takahashi wrote the character.

Elly is voiced by **Yumi Touma** (JP ver) and **Moira Quirk** (NA ver).

"Elhaym" was spelled "Elehayym" in the Japanese version. Origin of the full name is unknown. "El" is the generally accepted shortened form of "Elohim", the genus God. It's possible that "Elehayym" was an attempt at making a feminine variation on Elohim, or its simply a bastardization of Elohim. If she was named Elohim then it quickly would have given away her true nature.

"Haym" means "Life" in Hebrew, so the English spelling Elhaym makes more sense.

"Elly/Elley/Elle" is a variation of Eleanor and Ellen meaning "beautiful fairy". In Greek it means "light", "torch", or "bright light".

"Sophia" (Greek for "wisdom") is a central term in Hellenistic philosophy and religion, Platonism, Gnosticism, Orthodox Christianity, Esoteric Christianity, as well as Christian mysticism. Sophiology is a philosophical concept regarding wisdom, as well as a theological concept regarding the wisdom of God. In Gnostic tradition, Sophia is a feminine figure, analogous to the human soul but also simultaneously one of the feminine aspects of God. Gnostics held that she was the *syzygy* of Jesus Christ (i.e. the Bride of Christ), and Holy Spirit of the Trinity. In the Nag Hammadi texts, Sophia is the lowest Aeon, or anthropic expression of the emanation of the light of God. She is considered to have fallen from grace in some way, in so doing creating or helping to create the material world.

Elly is supposedly Tetsuya Takahashi's "ideal woman", and Soraya Saga was reportedly somewhat irritated with Elly for being "too stereotypical". This information came from Amber Michelle (a.k.a. Myaru), who interacted with Soraya Saga on the *Yggdrasil's Periscope* message board back in 1999, where Mrs. Saga talked about this. The details are unknown, but it sounded like Soraya's comment on Elly came after being asked why Elly was always absent from Soraya's artworks and doujinshis.

*"Elly of Xenogears is the ultimate feminine stereotype (and not just the mother of a small*

*family, but an entire bloody religion), and I remember Clio Saga commenting that she was the director's ideal woman. But Margie, the Elements, and other female characters fell into the same caretaker role, and they were mostly subordinate to men. Even Miang is skirting the line a little."*

*- Myaru (livejournal, 2007) on feminine stereotypes*

(Although Elly could probably be a poster girl for feminine stereotypes, the story wouldn't work without her character traits, which *are* based on actual psychology. Political correctness is hardly the point of the Xeno games. On the other hand, making all of the three main women (Elly, Margie, Miang) Type 2s, may have been a bit excessive.)

Based on the anime cutscenes, Elly appears to be left handed.

#### **Archived discussion and forum posts:**

- [Mother or Lover?](#)
- [Elhaym's appearance...](#)
- [About Elly and Medena - Elly/Sophia hair color difference.](#)
- [Elly's personality and character immersion...](#)
- [Elly and Ether ability.](#)
- [Elly - Japanese voice.](#)

#### **Quotes:**

*"It's okay not to feel 'whole'. Even if you feel only partly complete, if you repeat that enough, it'll eventually be 'whole'. A part... is better than zero."*

*"Those words I was unable to convey... That day... That time... Those thoughts I was unable to carry out... Words and thoughts... The connection between the two... Without words, thoughts cannot be conveyed... Without thoughts, there are no words... They are both as vital as each other... They can never be divided... Like the wings of angels..."*

*"A single hand cannot clap."*

*"Some things only the weak can feel...but weakness does not make them servile. It's because they are weak, that they can develop kindness...and never look down on people."*

*"I thought sacrificing myself in order to save others was the right thing to do... But my actions only brought sadness to all the people who I left behind. And that sadness gave birth to even more sadness."*